



# Minuteman UPDATE

September 2003

Massachusetts National  
Guard monthly  
newsletter for members,  
families, and friends

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## Three units return home

By Capt. Brad Leighton, STARC PAO

Some 240 soldiers returned home in August after serving for several months in Iraq, Kuwait or Afghanistan.

About 160 members of the 747<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co., in Southbridge, served in Afghanistan since being deployed in January.

The 747<sup>th</sup> provided personnel and perimeter security at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Task Force Headquarters and the Kabul Military Training Center, both in Kabul. The unit returned on Aug. 16.

"It was a tough deployment. It is going to take a little while for us to relax and get back to normal," Capt. Margaret Oglesby, commander of the 747<sup>th</sup>, told the family members greeting the unit upon its return.

Some 60 members of the 180<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, based in Hyannis, returned from Kuwait on Aug. 30 after a 10-month tour of duty.

The unit, comprised of carpenters, plumbers, masons and electricians, helped build facilities in Kuwait.

Some of the soldiers also traveled into Iraq to help rebuild structures there.

About 20 members of the 220<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Team returned home on Aug. 2 after spending six months overseas. The unit's mission was to purify and distribute water for soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait.

The 220<sup>th</sup> held a reception in honor of the soldiers at the Radisson Hotel on Sept. 6.

The other two units will hold similar ceremonies at dates and places to be announced later.



Photos by Capt. Brad Leighton, STARC PAO

**BIG HUGS** - (Top) Capt. Margaret Oglesby, commander of the 747<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co., gets welcome home hugs from niece Dominique Jones, niece Yvette Howard, and daughter Elizabeth Oglesby. On the right, Sgt. David MacPherson of the 220<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster team gets a hug from his girlfriend, Lauren Murphy, as her 1-year-old daughter, Fiona, looks at the camera. Below, family members greet the 180<sup>th</sup> Engineer bus.



# Recruiting offering incentives for referrals

*By Maj. Charles Cody, Recruiting and Retention Command.*

The Massachusetts Army National Guard needs every soldier, every NCO, and every officer to help increase enlistments. Now, more than ever, during this time of global conflict and record-setting operations tempo, the Guard is helping ensure that our freedoms and standard of living remain unshaken and sure.

The Massachusetts Army National Guard has soldiers deployed all over the globe fighting the war on terror. So many of our soldiers have given so much to help achieve the decisive victories we have witnessed over the last eight months. In order to maintain our momentum in these undertakings, we must dig a little deeper to help meet our end strength goals.

So much of what we do is predicated on meeting these numbers. Everything from force structure, to school seats, to AT training opportunities relies upon troop strength. It is to that end that the National Guard Bureau and Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, have initiated Victory Challenge 2003.

Victory Challenge is recruiting drive that is designed to jump start our lead generation and in turn reward soldiers who contribute to this effort. There is a national media blitz that will feature increased print ads and direct mailings. In fact, every soldier in the Guard will be receiving a brochure detailing the challenge and outlining the reward. We will also be advertising in movie theaters, on the radio and TV, as well as local print ads and internet ads.

There are two levels of awards that the soldier can win:

**Silver Level Award:** Presented to the soldier that refers three leads that become enlistments between June 18 and Nov. 30. Soldier will receive director's Victory Challenge coin, leather Victory jacket, framed flag that was flown over the nation's capital, a Victory Challenge plaque and trophy, and an Army National Guard warm-up suit and shirt.

**Gold Level Award:** Presented to the soldier that refers 5 leads that become enlistments between June 18 and Nov. 30.

Soldier will receive everything the silver level soldier gets as well as: airborne or air assault school, a NASCAR racing trip to Las Vegas, a custom backpack with removable camel back, and a custom "You Can" gym bag.

As with any military endeavor, the key to making this initiative successful is command emphasis at every level. Rest assured that recruiting is the number 1 priority for Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe, The Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Gary Pappas, the Mass. Army National Guard commander.



**FALL RIVER PARADE** - The Massachusetts National Guard was named grand marshal of the Fall River Celebrates America parade on Aug. 10. Here Comcast Channel 9 newswoman Erica Richie interviews Staff Sgt. William Ramos and Sgt. Stephen Martins of Recruiting and Retention.